

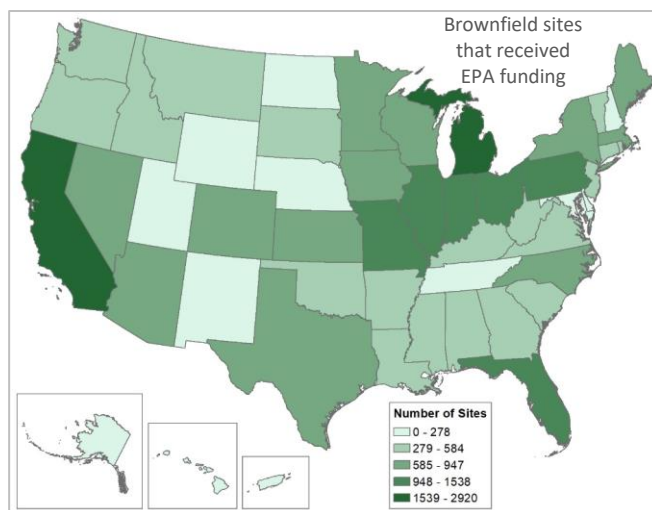
Population Surrounding 32,366 Brownfields Sites

Brownfields sites exist in thousands of communities across the U.S. ranging from remote to large urban settings. Many of these sites are in economically distressed communities. To help describe who benefits from EPA's Brownfields Program, the Agency used **2016-2020 American Community Survey populations data and FY 2021 Brownfields** to summarize the population living within 3, 1, and ½ miles of Brownfield sites that received EPA funding.

Population within ½ Mile of Sites:

Approximately 34 million people live within ½ mile of a Brownfields site (roughly 10% of the U.S. population) including approximately:

- 10% of all children in the U.S. under the age of 5
- 10% of all children in the U.S. under 18
- 17% of all blacks in the U.S.
- 12% of all Hispanics in the U.S.
- 13% of all minorities in the U.S.
- 17% of all households in the U.S. below the poverty level
- 14% of all people with less than a high school education in the U.S.
- 15% of the linguistically isolated people in the U.S.



Population within 1 Mile of Sites:

Approximately 68 million people live within 1 mile of a Brownfields site (roughly 19% of the U.S. population) including approximately:

- 21% of all children in the U.S. under the age of 5
- 20% of all children in the U.S. under 18
- 32% of all blacks in the U.S.
- 25% of all Hispanics in the U.S.
- 26% of all minorities in the U.S.
- 31% of all households in the U.S. below the poverty level
- 27% of all people with less than a high school education in the U.S.
- 29% of the linguistically isolated people in the U.S.

Population within 3 Miles of Sites:

Approximately 155 million people live within 3 miles of a Brownfields site (roughly 47% of the U.S. population) including approximately:

- 48% of all children in the U.S. under the age of 5
- 46% of all children in the U.S. under 18
- 60% of all blacks in the U.S.
- 54% of all Hispanics in the U.S.
- 56% of all minorities in the U.S.
- 56% of all households in the U.S. below the poverty level
- 53% of all people with less than a high school education in the U.S.
- 60% of the linguistically isolated people in the U.S.

Demographics of Near-Site Populations:

While there is no single way to characterize communities located near our sites, this population is *more minority, low income, linguistically isolated, and less likely to have a high school education* than the U.S. population as a whole.

TABLE 1: Proportions of Key Demographics in the Total Near Site Population and the Total U.S. Population

	Population within ½ mile of All Sites	Population within 1 mile of All Sites	Population within 3 miles of All Sites	U.S. Population
Minority	53.2%	52.1%	47.8%	40.5%
Below poverty level	20.2%	18.4%	15.0%	12.8%
Linguistically isolated	6.7%	6.6%	6.1%	4.9%
Less than a High School Education	16.1%	15.3%	13.1%	11.6%

Methodology:

A circular site boundary, equal to the site acreage, was modeled around the latitude/longitude for each site and then a 3-, 1- or ½- mile buffer ring was placed around the site boundary. American Community Survey 2016-2020 population data was then identified for each block with a centroid that fell within the 3-, 1- or ½-mile area. Population characteristic data was not available for census blocks but was available for block groups. To calculate the block population characteristics, the population percentage of the block within the block group was calculated and then that weight was applied to the respective block group characteristic of interest to estimate a value for the block.

Data used includes: (1) Brownfields site information from ACRES as of the end of FY2021; and (2) American Community Survey 2016-2020 population data. Site data from FY2021 included 32,366 brownfields sites in the 50 U.S. states and Puerto Rico with accurate locational data.

IMPORTANT Caveats:

- Data collected represent a national look at the characteristics of the population in communities surrounding our sites. While some of the data point to possible environmental justice related characteristics of the population, this is not a full environmental justice analysis.
- Proximity to a site does not necessarily represent risk of adverse health effects. The risk of exposure to contamination varies significantly across all sites.
- Data are a snapshot in time only, the site and population information will change over time (can be updated every year when new census data comes out and compared over time in 5-year intervals).
- Used best available information, but data collected are estimates only, for the following reasons:
 - ❖ Used a single latitude/longitude location to model site boundaries based on acreage, not the actual site boundaries.
 - ❖ Used centroid points of the census blocks to determine inclusion in the estimates. This may under-estimate the population in some cases, and over-estimate in others.

Footnote to Use When Citing Data:

U.S. EPA, Office of Land and Emergency Management 2022. Data collected includes: (1) Brownfields site information from ACRES as of the end of FY2021; and (2) population data from the 2016-2020 American Community Survey.

TABLE 2: Detailed Data on the Population within 1 and 3 miles of Brownfields sites

Below are data on the demographic characteristics of the population surrounding Brownfields. The table indicates whether certain population demographics near sites are above (in bold) or below (in italics) the U.S. average.

Demographics	Population Within ½ Mile Of Sites (Approximate)		Population Within 1 Mile Of Sites (Approximate)		Population Within 3 Miles Of Sites (Approximate)		US Population (Approximate)	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Race								
White	58.0%	19,440,761	59.4%	40,190,861	63.9%	99,304,620	70.3%	231,911,672
Black	21.2%	7,096,448	19.8%	13,413,092	16.2%	25,101,577	12.6%	41,594,421
Asian	5.4%	1,817,367	5.7%	3,825,069	6.4%	9,897,393	5.6%	18,427,458
Native American	1.1%	362,491	1.0%	658,678	0.8%	1,305,919	0.8%	2,694,287
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.2%	70,581	0.2%	146,890	0.2%	338,044	0.2%	611,659
Other	14.1%	4,719,939	13.9%	9,369,968	12.5%	19,443,068	10.5%	34,582,476
Ethnicity								
Hispanic (any race)	23.0%	7,720,891	23.2%	15,680,224	21.8%	33,887,338	19.0%	62,572,901
Non-Hispanic (any race)	77.0%	25,786,696	76.8%	51,924,333	78.2%	121,503,282	81.0%	267,249,072
Minority								
Minority	53.2%	17,831,379	52.1%	35,244,544	47.8%	74,203,716	40.5%	133,540,124
Income								
Households below the poverty level	20.2%	2,671,376	18.4%	4,845,398	15.0%	8,948,600	12.8%	15,847,868
Households with a ratio of income to poverty level of two and over	57.5%	18,621,185	60.2%	39,373,571	65.9%	99,674,315	69.8%	224,565,653
Education								
Less than a high school education	16.1%	3,627,436	15.3%	6,945,656	13.1%	13,844,968	11.6%	26,086,480
Linguistically isolated								
Linguistically isolated households	6.7%	887,279	6.6%	1,740,507	6.1%	3,634,178	4.9%	6,020,469
Age								
Under 5 years of age	6.2%	2,067,803	6.2%	4,168,397	6.1%	9,469,189	6.0%	19,781,156
Under 18 years of age	21.5%	7,198,035	21.6%	14,608,984	21.8%	33,885,850	22.4%	73,907,865
Over 64 years of age	13.8%	4,631,939	14.3%	9,650,833	15.3%	23,712,008	16.1%	53,029,913
Total		33,507,586		67,604,557		155,390,620		329,821,973